A

LETTER

FROM A

Quaker-Merchᵗ.

TO

Will. Wood

HARD-WARE-MAN.

DUBLIN:

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A Letter, &c.

Friend William,

THE *Spirit moveth me* to tell thee thou art a brazen face, Read the Prophet *Iſaiah* c. 48. v. 4. where ſpeaking to the *Obſtinate*, he ſayeth; *Thy Neck is an Iron Sinew, and thy Brow Braſs.* Now that thou art obſtinate is plain from thy *malicious Perſeverance*, in offering to ſend over thy *Tokens of Braſs*, when we of this *Kingdom*, both *Gentle* and *Simple*, have refus'd thy *Love*, and have given thee to underſtand (*but Underſtanding thou haſt not*) that we could neither like thee, nor them; becauſe they are found *Light in the Ballance* as thou art thy ſelf. *Thy Treaſures are Treaſures of Wickedneſs*, (as the Prophet *Micah* hath it *c. 6. v.* 10.) and thou comeſt, as it is in the following Verſe, *with the wicked Ballance, and with a Bag of deceitful*

Weights. We remember how *Paul* complaineth, That *Alexander the Copper-Smith did him much Wrong*, which ought to put all *Chriſtians* upon their Guard, whenever they have any dealing with a *Tinker*, for ſuch is a *Copper-Smith*, We know thy unrighteous Deſigns, and we are accordingly prepared againſt thee; therefore we hope it will never be in thy Power, or in the Power of thy *Accomplices* to lay ſuch a *dead Weight* as 108000 Pounds of thy *Tokens* upon the Trade of our *Kingdom*. *Hear this O ye that ſwallow up the Needy, even to make the Poor of the Land to fail*, Amos c. 8. v. 4. We have many *Drawbacks upon our Trade*, and labour under many *miſerable Diſcouragemens* thereunto added; (for we have more *Plunderers* beſide thee;) what then will become of us if thy *Tokens come in*, and our *Silver* and our *Gold go out*? Our expiring Country will not be unlike the unſavoury Departure of a Tallow Candle. This *Nation*, if thou canſt have Patience, will be ruined ſoon enough without thy Help; For there is one *Species* of my own Country Men, who have no other *Occupation* in Life, but to go *backwards* and *forwards* between this *Kingdom*, and thine, who ſeem to be tired

of

of their *Eſtates* and *Money*. They go from hence with *Light Hearts* and *Heavy Purſes*, but they come back with *Heavy Hearts* and *no Purſes* at all. For there are many Methods of *Luxury*, *Lewdneſs*, and *Vanity* to make them *unload their Wealth* among you, ſuch as are vulgarly called *Maſquerades*, *Opera's*, *Taverns*, *Muſick Meetings*, *Filthy Women*, *Cards*, *Dice*, *and Horſe-racing*. There is another Species belonging both to our Country and thine, and ſome likewiſe *of other Countries*, and *Nations*, which are known by the Name of *Penſioners*. Theſe carry off *a huge deal of our Money*, and make us no Return for it. Not to mention all you receive from us for the *Poſt-Office*, for *Coals*, for *Corn* and other Commodities. If thou comeſt after theſe, there will be a quick Diſpatch of all we are worth, and then we might wretchedly complain with the Prophet *Joel*, c. 1. v. 4. *That which the Palmer-Worm hath left, hath the Locuſt eaten; and that which the Locuſt hath left, hath the Canker-worm eaten.* There is no Man who conſidereth the Nature of *Braſs* can be at a loſs to know who is meant by the *Canker-worm*.

Thou ſeemeſt to me to be much of the ſame Diſpoſition with one *Cyprellus* a very

ry *great Knave and Governour of Corinth*, mentioned by that Heathen *Ariſtotle*, in the Treatiſe call'd his *Politicks*, who ſtudied a Method of getting all the Money which belonged to the State into his own Coffers, which he did in a very few Years. But thy Contrivance is ſomewhat more expeditious; for a very few Months would ſerve thy Turn, becauſe our *Treaſury* doth circulate 35000 Pounds a Month.

Now perhaps thou and thy Adviſers do not conſider, that if we be utterly undone, the *King* muſt loſe ſo much of his Strength, as we do loſe of our Money, not only in the ſinking of his *Revenues*, but in our being diſabled to advance any conſiderable Summs in times of greateſt Diſtreſs. I remember not long ago when the young Man called the *Pretender*, *who is in the Eye of too many Folks*, was coming hither full ſpeed with the *Whore of Babylon* behind him, The *Loyal Proteſtants* of this *Kingdom*, who were for the *Hanover Succeſſion* turned him away from his Intention, by offering 100000 Pounds for his Head. Can we then ſuppoſe that King *George* for whom we were ſo *Hearty*, will ſupport thee, and thy Project againſt us, to make us *Heartleſs*? That he will ſtand

by

by one Man, who never perhaps ſtood by him, againſt *three hundred thouſand of us*, who did ſtand by him? That he will encourage thee to rob us of that *Silver* and *Gold* which we were ſo *ready to lay out in his Service*? We might as well imagine that he would cut off one of his own Legs and take one of *Wood* in its place. Friend *William* he is too wiſe, and loves the *Proteſtant Cauſe* too well to break down one of the *ſtrongeſt Pillars* upon which it ſtands.

To make the Matter yet more plain to thee, for I hear from all hands thou art a Fellow of ſmall Underſtanding, ſuppoſe thou thy ſelf wert placed upon *a three legged Stool*, wouldſt thou be contented that another ſhould come and propoſe taking away a ſound *Leg of Oak* to put a *rotten Cabbage Stalk* in the place of it? And yet thou haſt the Baſeneſs to endeavour at filling the *King's Treaſury* here which is one of his Legs with Traſh, which has neither Strength or Subſtance, and which his own Servants both Civil and Military are reſolved to refuſe; becauſe it will neither buy them *Meat*, *Drink* or *Cloaths*, For the *Bakers* will not take them; and the *Butchers* will not take them; and the *Brewers* will not take them; and the *Brandy Shops* will not

not take them; and the *Grocers* will not take them; all People declare they will not take them.

The poor Soldiers (tho' I do not approve of their Trade, yet I pity them as *Chriſtians*) have Stomachs as well as other Men, and they will be apt to go to the *Shambles* and endeavour to bear away with them ſome Pieces of *Beef*, or *Mutton*, for what they are *pleaſed to give* and for what the *Butchers will not be pleaſed to take*. Hence there will be bitter Railings; and Heart burnings between them, and at laſt they may be provoked to ſmite one another with Carnal Inſtruments of Deſtruction, namely *Swords*, *Knives* and *Cleevers* to the great Detriment of one another's Faces, and ſometimes to the loſs of Blood and Life. Hence will proceed *ſhameful* and *ignominious Deaths*; For the Law makes no more of hanging or *gibitting a Soldier* than another Man. I remember to have ſeen with mine own Eyes a *Drummer* hanged upon a Sign Poſt in *Fiſhamble Street*, though it was only a *Bombailiff* which he ſlew. Theſe are doleful Conſiderations, that ſome of the *King's beſt Subjects* of this Kingdom ſhould be brought to a Neceſſity of cutting one another's throats and be hanged for it afterwards. Therefore

fore *Friend William* deſiſt I ſay, and do not thou join with thoſe who would oppreſs this poor *Orphan Nation*; for ſo we have been lately called by the *ancient Corporation of Swords.*

It would be a diſmal thing if we had the ſame kind of Complaint to make of thee, which the Prophet *Jeremiah* maketh of the *King of Babylon* in theſe Words. *Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath cruſhed me, he hath made me an empty Veſſel, he hath ſwallowed me up like a Dragon, he hath filled his Belly with my Delicates, he hath caſt me out,* c. 51 v. 34.

Then alas might we ſay to *poor Ireland,* as the Prophet *Iſaiah* hath it, c. 1. v. 22. *Thy Silver is become Droſs, thy Wine is mixed with Water.* And what would be the Conſequence the ſame Prophet ſaith, *All Joy is darkened and the Mirth of the Land is gone*

As for mine own part rather than have *my Mirth gone,* I would ſooner ſee thee *crained up* with a Cord of Hemp about thy Neck, and thy *Legs upon nothing.*

But rather than have *Water in my wine* it wou'd be no Offence to mine Eyes to ſee thy Belly ſwelled down to thy very Toes with incurable Dropſie.

I hope to ſee the Time yet that we ſhall ſay of thy *Braſs* as the Prophet *Ezechiel* ſaid of the Vine Branch, *ſhall WOOD be taken thereof to do any Work? Or will Men take a Pin of it to hang any Veſſel thereon.*

If thou haſt amind to refine thy Metal for thine own Country, take Advice of the Prophet *Ezechiel*, 'Set it empty on 'the Coals thereof, that the Braſs of it 'may be hot, and may burn, and that 'the Filthineſs of it may be molten in 'it, that the Scum of it may be con-'ſumed. For let me tell thee hitherto, 'She hath wearied her ſelf with Lies, 'and her great Scum went not forth 'out of her, c. 24. v. 11, 12.

And to make thoſe Lies good thou didſt moſt maliciouſly hunt out for *three Malignant Iriſh Evidences*, whoſe Words would not paſs in this Kingdom for one of thy *Farthings*, were they to paſs, as I am now confident they ſhall not, becauſe we are *all alarm'd* and reſolved not to *Prophane our Hands with them*, except thou firſt *Blind us* as the *Philiſtines* did *Sampſon* thou ſhalt never *Bind us* with thy *Fetters of Braſs*. Judges c. 16. v. 21.

There is a Text in the Prophet *Iſaiah*, which ſeemeth to me very plainly to have

have foretold concerning thee, *For Braſs I will bring Gold, and for Iron I will bring Silver, and for WOOD Braſs*, c. 60. v. 17. which I ſhall interpret thus for thee. Inſtead of thy *Braſs* we ſhall have *Silver* and *Gold* brought in among us, and thou WILLIAM WOOD ſhalt have thy *Braſs* to thy ſelf. The Prophet doth plainly ſay it; for thy very Name is in the latter Part of the Verſe—*and for WOOD Braſs*, which I adviſe thee to mark.

Now give me Leave to recommend to thee *a Piece of Hiſtory*, which I ſhall leave to the Conſideration of *Thee* and thy *Accomplices*, I met with it in *Fines Morrice's* Hiſtory of *Tyrones Rebellion* in *Ireland*, Part 2. Page 90. Anno 1600.

'Here his Lordſhip (meaning the 'Lord Montjoy) Lord Deputy of *Ireland*, 'received from the Lords Directions to 'deſcry the Silver Money, and to pro-'claim a new Coin Three Ounces fine; 'which Baſe Money was ſent over to 'impoveriſh the Rebels, as was pretend-'ed, who made War againſt the Queen 'with her own Treaſure; but in Con-'cluſion it was the undoing of all the 'Queen's Servants there; for no Man 'cared to lay it up, and all things were 'bought at exceſſive Rates. After the

'Ex-

'Exchange in England once failed. This 'Exchange was proclaimed to be held 'at three Cities in *England*, and Four 'in *Ireland*, but by Reaſon that great 'Sums were coined by Rebels and Stran-'gers and for other Abuſes of the Same, 'as namely, by the Merchants, who not-'withſtanding that the Money was duly 'changed, did exceſſively raiſe all Prices; 'this Exchange ſoon failed, and our 'Hearts therewith, for we ſerved there 'with Diſcomfort and came home 'Beggars. So that only the Treaſurers 'and Pay-Maſters (who were thereby in-'finitely enriched) had Cauſe to bleſs 'the Authors of this Invention.

The ſame Author, not long after, taketh Notice that the Prices of things on Account of this baſe Money were rais'd to ſuch an immoderate Height, that the *Poor Soldiers were almoſt famiſhed, and died of Diſtempers occaſioned by the Scarcity of Food*, and Cloath was at ſuch a Rate, that they were forced to ſend for *England to Cloath the Army*, 'till the *Government* on the other ſide, who almoſt too late diſcovered the Evil, contrived Means to remove the Grievance of the *Baſe Coin*, which they had made *Current* before.

I ſhall make one Remark unto thee upon the foregoing Piece of Hiſtory; We find that the Baſe Money was then contrived to *Beggar and Weaken the Papiſts*, who were actually in Rebellion againſt *Queen Elizabeth*, and ſhall the ſame Expedient be put in Practice againſt us; who are *Proteſtants* and *in Peace*? who have by our *Blood and Treaſure* (as it is commonly expreſſed) from Time to Time *Supported, Abetted and Maintain'd* the common Cauſe, againſt that *Fiery Dragon of Rome*, and who are reſolved firmly to ſtand by the *Hanover Succeſſion* from *Generation to Generation* in ſpight of thee and all thy Adherents. And doſt thou not likewiſe believe that the *Hanover Succeſſion* will ſtand by us? Think of *Enniskilling and Derry-Men*, and the great Honour *William the King* did himſelf when he choſe to head them at the Battle of the *Boyn*, rather than any other of his *Troops*. Doeſt thou think if he were now alive that he would reward their great Services with thy Tokens? That he would throw thy *Dirt in thoſe Faces* which frightened *James* and *Popery* away? That he would prefer a Scandalous *Tinker* to ſuch Numbers of the braveſt Men? Sure thou canſt not be ſo mad as to think it. How dareſt

dareſt thou then to imagine that *George* who is as good a King as *William*, and who has the *Good of us Proteſtants* as much at Heart as ever *William* had, would comply with thee to ruin us all at one Stroke. Let me tell thee I am of Opinion that thou art *a Jeſuit in Diſguiſe*, for no Friend to *Proteſtants* would ever contrive ſuch A PLOT for their Deſtruction.

To conclude the whole, let me tell thee *Friend William* that we are ſo far from ſtanding in need of thy *Tokens*; that we do not want any *Tokens* at all. For moſt Landlords through this *Kingdom* are loaded with them by their Tenants. One *Bingham* in *Conaught* very lately received in *ſeventeen Pounds of Rent the Summ of ten Pounds in Half-pence*. One *Jackſon* in *Fingall ſix Pounds in ten*. One *Donaldſon* in the County of *Fermanagh thirteen Pounds in twenty one*. One *Meirrs* in the County of *Antrim*, *nine Pounds fourteen and five pence, in eighteen Pounds*. It would be fruitleſs to name thee any more of our Numbers who are willing to give thee the beſt Aſſurances, that we neither want, nor will receive any of thy *Tokens* at all. Our whole *City* of *Dublin* is full of *Half-pence*, and if thou pleaſeſt to make the Experiment, thou

ſhalt

ſhalt have *five hundred Pounds worth* in four hours warning, of much better *Copper* than *thine own*, provided thou giveſt *Silver* or *Gold* in Exchange.

Harding the Printer hath in one week received a vaſt Quantity of *Half-pence* for Papers written againſt thee, by *my much eſteemed Friend the Drapier*, whoſe Praiſes we cannot enough ſet forth. When I ſeriouſly conſider thy Aſſurance I am apt to think thou art a little beſide thy ſelf, to paſs thy *Tokens* ſo earneſtly upon us which we have no Buſineſs for, and which we all have given thee to underſtand we do not want in the leaſt. When we do I ſhall take care to ſend thee Word. Thy *Tokens* are not like *Herrings*, they will keep in thy *Barrels*, without ſal'ing many a long Year.

I cannot part with thee before I make one remark more, when I went to the *Latin School* I read in an *Heathen Author* an Account that one *Janus* (to the beſt of my Memory he was ſo called) was the firſt that ever made *Braſs-money*. He was repreſented in one Picture with *two Faces*, and in another with *Four*; both which Circumſtances may be very well apply'd to thee. For thou haſt *one Face* for *Ireland*, whereby thou wouldſt make us think that thy Coin is

for

for our Good, and this is *thy falſe Face*, thou haſt alſo one *Face* for thy ſelf and thy *great Friends in England*, and that is thy *true Face*. And becauſe ſome Authors repreſent *Janus* with *four Faces*, therefore in Memory of thy Founder, thou haſt made *four Sorts of Coin*, BAD, WORSE, WORST, AND WORST OF ALL. I fear I have been a little troubleſome to thee, and therefore I think fit to withdraw.

I am thy Friend if thou beeſt mine,

Aminadab Firebraſs.